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Fire away

Minden Hills firefighter Michael Xerri helps Tasha Reid, 6, use a fire hose during a demonstration to mark First Responders Day on Monday, May 1. The open house was a part of a county-wide initiative to celebrate first responders. See more photos on pages 12 and 13. /ADAM FRISK special to the Times

ER closure benefits Haliburton facility

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The shortage of medical staff is at the root of the decision to close the Minden Hills Emergency Department.

Haliburton Highlands Health Services recently announced the facility would close June 1. The Haliburton Emergency Department will continue to accept patients.

Carolyn Plummer, the CEO and president at HHHS, and David O'Brien, chairperson of the health service's board of directors,

explained the reasons for the decision when Minden council met April 27.

The Zoom online broadcast of the meeting drew 165 viewers before the HHHS delegation. Soon after Plummer and O'Brien assumed their hot seats, viewership shot up to 214 people.

"It was one of those days in your life that you never want to come across," O'Brien said of when the decision was made to close a facility.

"In order to maintain our health service provision here in the county, we need to have

see ER page 2



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Minden water levels noticeably high

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

If you've walked through Minden sometime over the past week, you would notice that the Gull River water levels have risen. Some portions of the Riverwalk have been closed down by order of the municipality to maintain safety over the flooded path.

With this in mind, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) – Bracebridge Minden Parry Sound District, is advising area residents that a water safety bulletin is in effect in the district until Friday, May 5, 2023.

"Water levels in managed lakes are average to above average for this time of year," said Kris Windover, IRM Technical Specialist with the local MNR. "Water levels and river flows are expected to rise with forecasted rainfall."

Over the duration of the coming week, forecasts are predicting up to 60 mm of rainfall, resulting in soft shoulders and spillage around the river.

On May 1, the MNR formally issued a flood watch bulletin for the Gull River Watershed.

This means that "potential for flooding exists within specific watercourses and municipalities." Folks who have experienced flooding in the past are recommended to prepare for a situation in which flooding could occur again; though it is not necessarily inevitable.

There are three major steps to flood analysis communications: flood outlook, flood watch, and finally, a formal flood warning.

Windover also noted that the watersheds in the region are a part of a "cascading system". "Runoff from rain and snowmelt cascades and compounds through the entire system affecting water levels in each waterbody," he said. "It will take a number of days for the additional rain to work its way through the entire system."

For the most up-to-date information on Minden water levels, the MNR are encouraging locals to visit the Ontario Waterways Water Management InfoNet on the Trent-Severn Waterway website: parks.canada.ca/lhn-nhs/on/trentsevern/info/infonet/point-gestion-eau-water-management-updates.



Water levels have risen along the Gull Watershed, resulting in the MNR issuing a flood watch on May 1. /ADAM FRISK special to the *Times*

ER closure inevitable based on staffing

from page 1

more staff," he said. "We need more doctors. We need more nurses. We need more of the whole support system."

Plummer said the decision to consolidate emergency medical service isn't a comment against the quality of service provided at the Minden Hills facility. It was simply the result of a difficult decision to maintain health care service for all of Haliburton County.

O'Brien said the need to close the Minden Emergency Department is directly related to the current staff shortage.

"It's taken an extraordinary amount of effort over the last 18 months to keep the team together, to keep it focused, to keep it delivering the services that we need," he said.

Existing staff routinely made incredible personal and professional sacrifices.

"It got to the point that we can't continue to do that," O'Brien said. "We're going to lose people more than we've already lost."

According to O'Brien, the county could have lost its total health care service if the pressured situation progressed and worsened.

"That was the focus of making this decision," he said. "The staff that we have are under extreme pressure. They came to us and said, 'Look, you've got to do something because we can't keep going on like this.'"

He said staff expressed concern that the system would fail. "That is the crux of why the decision was made," O'Brien said.

Plummer said she's spoken about the dearth of staff members in every public board meeting over the last couple years. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many people to abandon the health care profession, she said. And the recruitment pool has shrunk.

"In 2022 alone, we had more than 20 official close calls," Plummer said. "And many other close calls that were not

made official where we were just one step away from having to temporarily close one or even both of our emergency departments at the same time on very short notice."

Mayor Bob Carter charged that there was little to no consultation with parties outside HHHS about the closure.

Plummer and O'Brien juggled the microphone. O'Brien said she couldn't comment on Carter's assertion.

Plummer said the closure was a board decision, supported by the executive leadership, and informed by staff.

"It was an operational decision that had to be made," she said.

Nurses stretched themselves so thin because nobody wanted to feel as if they had a hand in the closure of an emergency department.

O'Brien said patient volumes, financial and other resources, the alignment with HHHS priorities and values mission, the political will at Queen's Park, and the health needs of the county before making the decision on which facility would close.

"This is a very complex business, health care," he said. "If you don't have the stability in the system that drives the delivery of the service, it's very, very hard to do."

"People continue to get sick. That doesn't change. The hospital system has to be ready to go to move to support that particular fact of life."

Plummer said a big part of the rationale for consolidating services at the Haliburton site was because that's where the region's in-patient acute-care beds are located.

The Minden space isn't designed to support an acute-care unit and would cost millions of dollars and significant renovation to accommodate such a unit, she said.

Paramedic personnel indicated that the Haliburton site is more centralized in the county, she said.

"Contrary to what has been circulated on social media, both emergency departments are having physician staffing challenges," Plummer said.

O'Brien said retaining both facilities would have maintained uncertainty in the community among staff and residents. And that uncertainty would have been incredibly damaging.

"We needed to be able to give them clear direction about where the community could access emergency care," he said.

Plummer said they have many ideas for consolidation. The administration is soliciting staff input on how to best pursue that process.

"We will work with our staff who are the experts in front-line care to choose from various scenarios that were created with respect to patient flow and how to accommodate the increased (patient) volumes at one site," she said.

Carter said staffing issues have been ongoing at HHHS. There were even discussions in 2022 about the possibility of temporary closures at either of the facilities.

"At no point was there a discussion that one of these facilities would have to close permanently," Carter said.

He said his colleagues in the other three lower tier municipalities agreed that there was no such talk. News of the permanent closure came as a complete shock, he said. He's fielded hundreds of questions from residents.

Carter suggested the closure be pushed back to November or later to allow for stakeholders' discussion about implementation of the plan. Such a decision should have a duty to consult stakeholders.

"This would get us through the busy summer period and allow a transparent public process," Carter said.

Plummer said the decision was an operational one that had to be made when it was made.

"We know the timing is not ideal," she said. "This summer would have seen multiple temporary but short notice closures on one or likely both emergency departments all summer long."

Minden businesses speak out about closure

by EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

The closure of the Minden ER is not sitting well with Minden stakeholders.

The *Times* took to the streets of downtown Minden shortly after the announcement that the Minden Emergency Room would be closing on June 1, 2023. Despite consistent references that the Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) board claimed they had consulted with stakeholders, the largest qualm local businesses have with the decision, was the lack of communications.

"That's what bothers me the most," said Mathew Renda, the manager of Boshkung Social on Water Street. "There was no public forum, no consultation with the community."

Renda shared that his family specifically purchased a home in Minden with close proximity to the hospital. "Having the ER nearby was a service to the community," he said, "It is an aging population, and there aren't a lot of draws for younger people - no transportation, no housing, but the ER was a draw. Now, the community in general will be impacted. We're going to lose a whole population."

As a local "hub" in the community, Renda said that he has heard an abundance of talk about the closure at the Social over the past few days. The general consensus is that the community is opposed to the HHHS decision. "It impacts everything," he said, "it will affect our businesses, our community, and our personal lives. It really sucks."

Down the road, Shawn Chamberlain sits in his bar at the Dominion Hotel. Chamberlain and his wife, Elli, have been in the area since the 1970s, originally settling in Haliburton, but moving to Minden shortly after. He has seen the community grow and change, but believes the decision around the closure will only have a negative impact on the town as a whole.

"It's a terrible situation for our community," he said. "We are one of the fastest growing communities in Ontario, and I can't figure out why you would limit your resources in a town that's growing so much."

Chamberlain went on to share that he was very shocked by the announcement on April 20. "It was a total surprise," he said. "Every hospital has staffing issues, so that wasn't a surprise, but the timing and the decision seems like it came out of nowhere."

He said he does feel hopeful at the community response thus far; between the signs, the petitions, and the rallies. "It's always nice to see our community come together over a unified issue," he said.



The "Minden Matters" signs are scattered throughout the downtown core of the village in an attempt to speak out over the recent announcement regarding the Minden ER closure. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Paul Roy, the owner of Up River Trading Co. in both Minden and Haliburton, has one of those petitions taped to his front desk. He echoed the other business owners sentiments, "It really does suck," he said, highlighting that the closure of the ER would impact him personally, as well as some effect on his business. "Any stress it causes the town is just not good for it," he said.

Roy said that he wholeheartedly believes in the cause, but hopes that the decision is not already a "done deal". Particularly with the lack of input the community has been offered thus far. "We're all for community change and trying to keep it vibrant," he said, "but this won't be good for it."

Molly McNerney of Molly's Bistro Bakery on Bobcaygeon Road presented a point about how the sudden closure of the ER will impact those interested in moving to Minden. "One of our greatest features is the fact that we have a hospital," she said, "They [new residents] will not only decide to buy closer to Haliburton so that they have access to it there, or even worse, they might choose to not buy in Haliburton County at all. We aren't the only place that has lakes."

She believes the closure will have a trickle-down effect on businesses in the area, noting that fewer people would equate in fewer customers, which means fewer staff needed, and so on. "This is not only a poor decision from a health standpoint," she said, "it is also a terrible economic decision."



Go Wildcats!

The Archie Stouffer Elementary School Wildcats played in the Division A County Tournament last week. The boys team lost to JDH in their first game, won the next two and found themselves playing vs JDH in the finals! JDH won 33 - 20 and are the Division A County Champions for both boys and girls. /Submitted by ASES

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(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act. Members of the Public will participate electronically, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

May 11 – Regular Council Meeting
May 25 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township CivicWeb Portal at mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx or by using the direct link provided in the notice. Meeting agendas are not displayed during the meeting; please download by visiting our CivicWeb Portal at mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx. Please note the live stream file/video will be available to the public for the duration of one week after the Council Meeting.

IMPORTANT LANDFILL CARD INFORMATION

Don't recycle your current Landfill Card, blue in colour, valid from May 1, 2021-April 30, 2023, it has been extended to the end of December 2023.

CULTURAL CENTRE EVENTS

Cross Cut, an exhibit by Rob Niezen, will be on display at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery May 4 – July 1.

The exhibit features 24 linocuts illustrating traditional Ontario folk songs reimagined in a contemporary context. The opening reception with the artist will be held on Saturday, May 6 from 1-3 pm. The gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm. Admission is by donation. For more information please look at the events calendar <https://calendar.minden hills.ca/default/Detail/>

2023-05-04-1000-Cross-Cut-Exhibit-by-Rob-Niezen.

The season opening of the Minden Hills Museum & Heritage Village and Nature's Place will take place on Saturday, May 20th from 10 am – 4 pm at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre. Join us for village tours, hands-on activities and demonstrations. Browning Reptiles will be here with a special exotic animal display from 1-3 pm. Admission is by donation.

For more information, please call 705-286-3763 or email culturalcentre@minden hills.ca.

OUTDOOR FIRES

Always make sure fires are completely extinguished before leaving the area. Drown all embers, charcoal briquettes, and ash with water. Turn them over with a shovel and drown again and repeat the process until embers and ashes are completely cold. Use dirt or sand to stir into and cool ashes if water is not available.

DAYTIME BURNING & FIREWORKS REMINDER

Reminder that you will need a burn permit for daytime burning, 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM from April 1st to October 31st, and fireworks permit for the ignition of fireworks. A burn permit is issued for the season. Visit our website at mindenhills.ca for current fees. Contact the Fire Department for fireworks permit prior to the ignition of fireworks at 705-286-1202.

MH places another piece of its 2023 budget

by JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Minden Hills put to bed its 2023 tax supported budget.

That's a step closer to nailing down this year's municipal operational and capital budget.

Greg Bedard, the township's finance director, said the tax-supported budget requires a levy of \$10.2 million. That's an increase of 5.76 per cent over 2022. Because of assessment growth over the last year, the actual levy increase to taxpayers is 4.79 per cent.

Property owners of a home assessed at \$209,000 will have to pony up \$878 in township taxes. That's \$40 more than their bill last year.

Property owners of seasonal recreational

properties assessed at \$316,000 will get a bill of \$1,326 for an increase of \$61 over 2022.

Owners of small commercial buildings assessed at \$235,000 will be taxed \$1,463 for a jump of \$67 over the previous year.

For every \$100,000 in residential assessment, the impact on township taxes payable is about \$19.

It is important to note that municipal taxes comprise 51 per cent of the residential property tax bill and 33 per cent of the commercial tax bill. The remainder is collected for the County of Haliburton and the local school boards.

A third of the budget expenses is dedicated to staff. The largest other expense on the books is the township's material supplies: fuel, utilities, and corporate support costs.

As assessment growth continues its upward trend, annual tax levy increases may

decrease.

"As Minden Hills is a desirable place to grow, we have people moving up here, the population continues to grow, both seasonal and permanent, we do see year over year assessment increase from this," he said.

"The impact of that assessment growth is that we're able to generate more taxation revenue from the tax base year over year."

That means the tax increase will be lower.

Bedard highlighted the contributions that have been made to the process. Staff started in February to ink the municipal 2023 operating and capital budget.

"I may be the public face of the budget, but I'm really just the tip of the iceberg," Bedard said.

Trisha McKibbin, the township's CAO, said council had a busy first quarter to the year.

"And that's evident in the fact that we've had a council or budget meeting nearly every week since the beginning of January," she said.

Mayor Bob Carter said there were a number of issues that complicated the budget process. There were new councillor members and new face on town staff unfamiliar with the process.

And, regarding the process, Bedard adopted a different methodology to work out a budget.

"It was a path fraught with danger and, of course, the situation that we have inherited especially regarding infrastructure is something that we had to address," Carter said.

"I think we're well underway to addressing it in this year's budget and the next."

Cell tower placement is a puzzle, says Rogers official

by JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Rogers does as much as possible to situate cellphone towers away from residences.

Eric Belchamber, site acquisition specialist on behalf of Rogers Communications, explained to Algonquin Highlands council April 20 that the company does its best to maximize the space between towers and houses.

And such was the case with a proposed cellphone tower to be located near Oxtongue

Lake at Highway 60 and Harris Road. The tower is part of the Eastern Ontario Regional Network Cell Gap Project.

"When it comes to these search areas, we do our best to maximize the setback from residences," Belchamber said. "But having a 1,000-metre requirement simply isn't viable in today's age with the technology required."

The proposed tower and existing towers are inside between 100-metres and 200-metres of residences.

Some residents expressed concerns at the last township council meeting about the proposed tower site. But Belchamber said the

site location meets all land-use requirements.

The proposed tower height is 60 metres, which is the lowest height possible to achieve the desired wireless coverage.

Co-location is not possible because the nearest 45-metre Bell tower is three kilometres away. The Bell tower is too far away from the search area and is not tall enough to accommodate antennas at a height to suit the Cell Gap Project.

Rogers has positioned the proposed tower to limit the impact to the natural landscape by accessing the proposed tower site using land already cleared of trees and then nestling the tower compound just inside the treeline, ensuring as much visual buffering as possible.

"The careful placement of these (towers) ... really is part of a huge puzzle," Belchamber said.

Making sure the puzzle pieces fit together ensures consistent, constant wireless coverage over a region, he said.

Councillor Lisa Barry inquired about the cumulative effects of cell towers on people's health.

"The very short and straight forward answer is there is no negative effect for health, whether there is one tower or 10 towers," Belchamber said.

In Toronto, there are cell towers on almost every building so ensure the city has the coverage it requires. At Oxtongue Lake, the existing Bell tower and Rogers' proposed tower is nowhere near the distance threshold allowed for rural areas.

Coun. Julia Shortreed said people need time

to become accustomed to the technology.

"It affects everybody in a different way and everybody should be able to have the option to use this technology," she said.

Maximizing cell coverage effectively bridges the rural divide, Belchamber said. It allows people to stay connected, despite geography.

Coun. Sabrina Richards asked how long it would take to find an alternative site.

"When it comes to alternative sites, I think that the first conclusion needs to be made as to whether or not there's anything objectively wrong with the site that's being put forward from a land-use planning perspective," Belchamber said.

Rogers has a signed lease agreement with the land owner and there are reports that attest to the site's suitability, he said. Rogers has also followed the municipal policies and procedures when the site was chosen.

Belchamber said it would set the project back by numerous months.

"While some people may not want to see it or look at it, that extends beyond some of the jurisdictional role that the municipality plays," he said.

Jason St. Pierre from the EORN Cell Gap Project said the work has to be completed by 2025.

"So to restart the process would be very, very challenging to us to be able to meet our target goals, from the EORN perspective," St. Pierre said.



HHHS Brings Together Emergency Services at Haliburton Site

As of June 1, 2023, emergency services will no longer be available at the HHHS Minden site.

Minden and the surrounding community will be able to access emergency services at the Haliburton site.

Visit www.hhhs.ca for more information.



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The Times
MINDEN ONTARIO

Old growth area in HF makes national history

by **VIVIAN COLLINGS**
Times Staff

Haliburton Forest & Wild Life Reserve leads the way for other private forests by becoming the first commercially-owned forest to receive conservation status in Canada.

After partnering with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), the 20 hectare South Freezy Lake old growth area owned by HFWR is now in the Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas database and considered an other effective area-based conservation measure (OECM), contributing to the country's goal of protecting 30 per cent of lands and waters by 2030.

A celebration was held at the Haliburton Forest Wolf Centre to recognize the accomplishment.

"Haliburton Forest has a very long history of conservation, and this accomplishment, establishing the first OECM on private land in Ontario, is the latest step in a very long journey," said Malcolm Cockwell, managing director of HFWR. "Nature Conservancy of Canada is a good partner, and we've done a good thing."

"In every instance, my colleagues and I have been impressed by their practical approach to land management and conservation both on their own properties ... but also, and especially, on the properties of their partners."

The South Freezy Lake area is difficult to access, and Cockwell said this is one of the main reasons why it has never been harvested in history.

"It is a really special area that deserves to be protected," he said.

Although the OECM is 50 acres, Cockwell said it is part of a 300 acre "area of significance."

It is surrounded by wetlands and steep cliffs.

"It is forest that's never, ever, in the history of time, as far as we know, been subject to any kind of industrial activity, any kind of harvesting. Not that there's anything wrong

with harvesting inherently, obviously as a company we do a lot of it ourselves, but there's something very special about areas that have never been harvested," Cockwell said. "At Haliburton Forest, typically when we find old growth, we protect it."

He also said there has been limited, intermittent hiking and hunting within this area.

"As a result, the area has many of the classic, old growth features. It's quite impressive when you get into it."

One of the most distinguishing aspects is "big, old trees."

Cockwell said because the area's never been logged, there is a lot of dead wood.

"This is very significant from an environmental point of view," Cockwell said.

"If you take a living tree by weight, maybe five to 10 per cent of that tree is alive. If you take a dead tree, a tree that's on the ground, rotting, by weight, maybe 30 per cent of it is alive because you've got it full of insects, fungi, bacteria, salamanders, and related animals. Decaying, dying wood is one of the most important, vital parts of a forest ecosystem, and in an old growth forest, you end up with a lot of that."

He also said the pit and mound soil structure is considerable because many trees have fallen and created mounds of soil.

"This creates micro-habitats that you don't typically see to the same extent in a managed forest area," he said.

The managing director said typically they will come across smaller pockets of old growth forest, which makes the Freezy Lake area so significant.

"It's not a reasonable management objective for the entirety of Haliburton Forest or Haliburton County to become old growth, its that old growth has become so important because there's so little of it," Cockwell said.

The South Freezy Lake area will now be protected for the future under the OECM.

NCC is a non-profit organization that aims to deliver "large-scale, permanent land conservation in the country."

Kristyn Ferguson, program director for Large Landscapes with NCC in Ontario, has been HFWR's main contact during this process.

She explained an OECM as "a relatively new conservation tool. It's an international conservation tool that acknowledges when lands are delivering conservation outcomes, even though conservation may not be the primary intention."

Ferguson visited the South Freezy Lake area in 2023.

"I remember the big trees. I remember the birdsong ringing out from the canopy. I remember the butterflies fluttering around me, and the amazing diversity of plants all around my feet ... I remember how special this place was. I could feel it. I could feel the history there, and it just immediately became apparent that this was the project to be working on," Ferguson said.

NCC hopes this will kick start a movement of other privately-owned forests to take the initiative and designate part of their land and waters as a conservation area.

"This is important," Ferguson said. "This gives a chance to inspire others to come along for a similar journey. It's so important to recognize the amount of conservation happening in Canada to help us understand where we can be protecting more lands, recognizing more lands."

"We're in a bit of a race to have 30 per cent of our lands and waters protected by 2030, so its things like this that are going to get us there."

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As the water rises

AS I WATCH the waters continue to rise on the day that the township declared an official flood watch in effect, I wonder what's next.

These past few weeks have been heavy. As someone who experiences feelings in a big way, I have found them particularly weighted. When all those emotions are swirling around, it's challenging not to absorb them.

And as the waters have risen, so have those emotions.

Anger. Frustration. Fear.

With the world at our fingertips, some of these ideas buzz like bees hungry for the first pollen of spring.

And then they grow. One person feels anger, so they put it out into the world; a little metaphorical parcel jam-packed with emotions, ready for the next person to pick up, open, and add their own anger to - all before shipping it out into the world again. And on. And on. And on.

People have asked me what my stance is on the emergency room closure. As a Minden local with young children and aging parents, the closure impacts me personally.

It will change the nature of our community in more ways than most could articulate right now.

But as a reporter, I have heard every single side of this story. I have been briefed on the "whys", approached for the rallies, and paid attention to the reasons; of any and all sides.

Through it all, I have listened. Absorbing the information like a sponge; sometimes to the point that my mind feels over-saturated; dragged down with the weight of the wordy water that's soaking through my brain.

I have been called out for not having a stance. For not taking a side. For not standing up for whatever my beliefs may be.

But I have listened. I have looked. And I will continue to learn. There's no place for a stance if all stories are still being shared. And in my mind, people are still telling their stories. And I still have more to listen, to look at, and to learn. We're in the middle here. Not the end.

Though I am maintaining a position of learned-neutrality at this time, I will advise readers to be mindful of where their content is coming from. The context, the cause, the core.



EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Because it's not always black and white. It's not always clear-cut. It's not always wagging fingers because we don't know where to point the anger, the frustration, the fear.

And it's never easy.

As I watch the waters

rise, I am reminded of the time I lived on the Gull River in 2019.

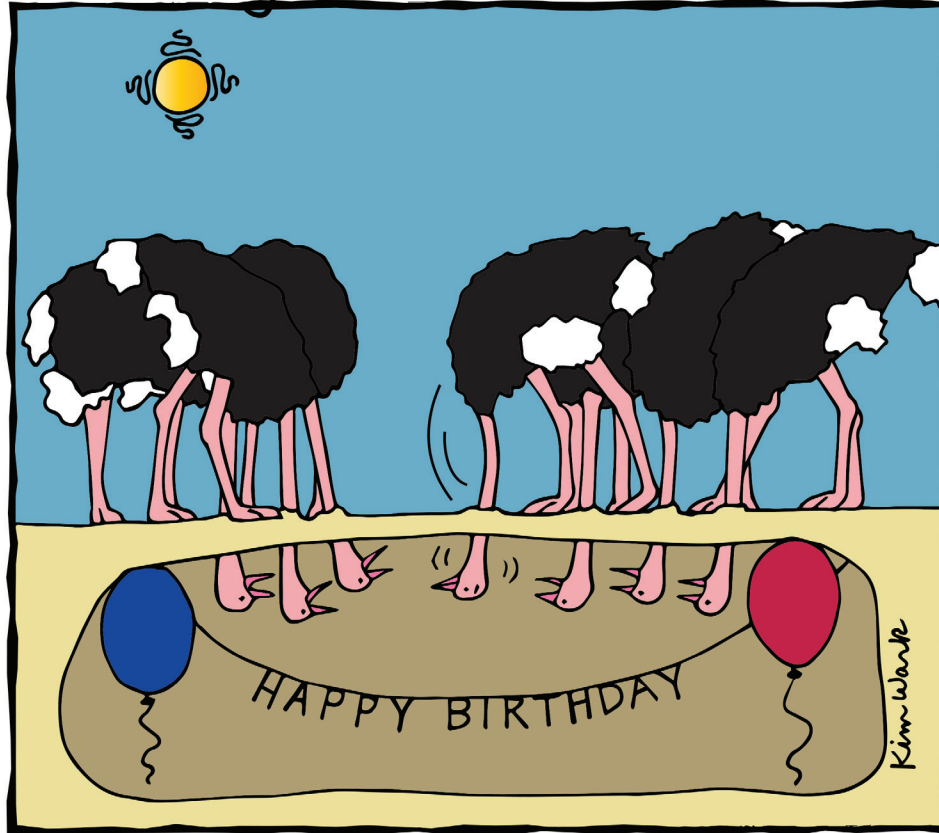
I was working for the township at the time, and was bumped into the role of emergency communications officer while the river swelled and poured over its softened edges.

One day, I came home after a long shift, and saw that my home had been sand-bagged. I don't know who did it, or why they thought I was worthy, but it was done for me. For my home. For our Minden.

Packing up that parcel of anger and hand-delivering it to someone may feel satisfying in the moment, but sending a sandbag to a stranger will get us all a lot further.

As those waters continue to rise.

Kwarky



"Surprise!"

Mounting tension

WORDS HURT. But, often, the people that utter them, don't realize how much. I'd like to think that was the case with Jenn, when she looked surprised and said, "You shot that?"

Out of context, it seems inconsequential. But when you consider that this is what she said after pointing to the white-tail buck mount I was about to re-hang on the wall of my office, I think you can feel my pain.

After all, she was referring to the one and only piece of taxidermy I own - the head and shoulder mount of a 275-pound whitetail buck, a 10-pointer that I shot many years ago near North Battleford, Saskatchewan.

We had just refloored and painted the basement, my new place of exile, where I write important things like this, when I said, "I guess it's time to put my buck back on the wall."

Jenn winced involuntarily. Then she said, "Why are you putting it back up? You didn't even shoot it."

I staggered and gasped.

Then, I wasted no time correcting her. But the emotional damage had already been done.

Aside from the implications of that statement, it also occurred to me that in our many years together, I have been accused countless times of not listening to her - or at least I think that's what she said. Meanwhile, I have recounted the story of how I outwitted that magnificent buck every year on our anniversary, in what I thought was a romantic gesture to Jenn. Heck, this year, I was also considering re-counting it on Jenn and my anniversary too, as soon as I remember when that is.

The point here is that Jenn had not been listening all these years.

Otherwise, she would know that I shot that buck as he was chasing a doe. And now I realize that I saved that big boy a world of hurt, because the doe he loved probably wasn't listening to him either.

Oh sure, they say they are, and they even nod their head and smile, but just try to get her to recount what calibre rifle (.308 Win.) and range (175 yards) you shot that deer at and see what that get's you.

Heartache, that's what.

Look, I have harvested deer in 11 of the 12 years Jenn and I have been together. And, admittedly, I tend to bring home

"good eaters" rather than huge bucks. But that's no reason to suggest that I am incapable of doing so. Especially since, I have had proof of this, hanging on the basement wall for the last 12 years.

The fact that she thought I hung another hunter's buck on my wall for the last 12 years makes me wonder what false life she thinks I was living. I mean, if you believe that, what other criminal activity do you

think I am capable of? Secretly liking tofu?

More practically, this means that she hasn't been telling the other non-hunting partners and wives about my big buck whenever they get together to discuss the hunting exploits of their spouses, which I assume is often.

It's sad really.

In any case, I now have the head and shoulders of that huge buck hanging on the wall of my basement office again. And Jenn has once again been informed (for at least the 20th time) that I was the one who harvested that deer.

I know she heard me. She nodded and smiled.



STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

The trees of our lives

I'M IN the woods looking for white spots that might be fuzzy pussy willow catkins, a true sign of spring. I see a couple of white spots, but unfortunately they are lingering patches of melting snow.

Maybe I'm not looking in the right places, but it is May and I have yet to find any blooming pussy willows. I'm guessing they are hiding, peeking nervously out at the cold, wet gloom that is this year's spring.

They are not alone. Many trees north of the Barrie-Orillia region have yet to bud, despite this being the first week of May.

Some buds began to appear a week or so ago, but have yet to break open and produce the leaves that are vital to the lives of trees.

Buds contain a light sensitive cell that detects when there is enough daylight and warmth for leaves to survive. During this year's gloomy spring there has not been enough sunlight for that cell to tell buds to begin making leaves.



JIM POLING SR.

From Shaman's Rock

Leaves are incredibly important to the trees on which they grow and to other parts of nature, ourselves included. They are a tree's main organ for capturing sunlight and turning it into food that produces healthy forests.

The wild temperature fluctuations we have experienced this spring are confusing and stressful to trees. Late spring frosts are unlikely to kill a tree but below normal temperatures and lack of sunlight can harm new growth and set back a tree's development.

Anything that reduces development of trees or their numbers should cause serious concern. Trees provide us the two most important elements of life – food in the form of fruits, nuts and syrups, and the oxygen that we breathe.

Trees also absorb carbon dioxide, too much of which causes global warming and is dangerous to human health. The U.S. agriculture department estimates that one acre of forest absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide and puts out four tons of oxygen. That's enough oxygen to meet the annual needs of 18 people.

Tree leaves also filter the air, capturing dust and unhealthy pollutants, then see them washed into the ground when it rains.

Our trees are key climate controllers. They help cool the planet during heat waves and shield us from rain, snow and wind. Their roots hold soil in place, preventing erosion.

And of course they provide food and shelter for birds and animals.

Those are all physical ways that trees make life possible. Equally important to me are the spiritual effects of trees.

Trees show us majestic beauty – glorious blooms in spring, spectacular colours in autumn. Their beauty calms us, enhancing our lives by displaying the wonders of our world.

Trees also are teachers. They bend in wicked winds and other punishing elements, showing us the importance of being strong and resilient.

Every day they display something that we humans have much difficulty understanding – diversity and its importance to all life on earth.

Last year the National Academy of Sciences published a study calculating there are more than 73,000 species of trees on earth. These trees have different shapes, sizes, smells and colours, but unlike humans they do not allow differences to create prejudices or discrimination.

Trees seem to understand that they cannot fulfill their purposes in life without accepting each other and working together. They look after each other, sharing sugars, other nutrients and information through mysterious underground networks.

Perhaps this is why trees have lifespans many times longer than humans.

Their longer life spans allow them to do things at a more leisurely, thoughtful pace. Humans, with their shorter life spans, tend to do things at a panic pace, often creating problems for themselves.

There is much we can learn from trees.

One of the most important lessons is not to take trees for granted. They are much more than logs for our industries; much more than wood for splitting and burning.

We will continue to cut trees for our own purposes, but should do so with respect and only when cutting is truly necessary and not excessive. Never because a tree is blocking a view or because we consider it useless or ugly.

There is no such thing as a useless or ugly tree.

letters to the editor

Minden ER closure

To the Editor,

As members of the Minden Health Care Auxiliary, we were shocked and saddened to hear that our Emergency Department would be closing permanently. Twenty-three years ago, when the new Minden Hospital opened, five local women formed the MHCA. They opened the Gift Shop, started fundraising for new equipment, and began volunteering at Hyland Crest Long-term Care Home. We have funded equipment for all departments in the building but the Emergency was always the key to our success. Every time we would "hit the streets" for Tag Day or Canada Day, or to sell our Wine on Wheels raffle tickets, we would hear so many heartwarming stories about the wonderful treatment that people in the community, permanent residents and cottagers alike, had received in our ER. Our fundraising has been successful because of the number of people who have used the

Minden ER and who were happy to know that it was there.

Before the pandemic, we had 50 members and were raising a large amount of money each year. We managed to re-group last year, and are now the only hospital auxiliary in the County. But our future is uncertain. We would very much like to keep working to support local healthcare, but without the Emergency Department, it will be much more difficult to raise funds and recruit new members. We will discuss what we should do at our meeting in May. We stand with our community to ask that this decision be reviewed, and hopefully delayed, or changed to a temporary closure.

Donna Monk, Founding Member and Past-President, MHCA
Mickey Bonham, Past-President, MHCA
Gail Simon, Current President, MHCA

To the Editor,

A few points of wonderment about the closing of the Minden ER being attributable to staffing shortages which in turn is due to lack of housing:

I wondered if some of the 16% (highest in the province) increase in our population during Covid might not include some medical personnel, so Jack Brezina sharing that he knew of at least two nurses whose applications had not been responded to, let alone acted upon, makes me wonder the extent to which HHHS's reputation as employer is a factor in attracting and retaining staff.

And I wonder what, if anything, it has to do with the fact (I heard it from a credible source, but I'd love to be corrected) that agency nurses are paid in the neighbourhood of \$200/hr (plus accommodation) and cannot be hired if they work even part-time elsewhere. That seems to me part of stealth privatization of the health sys-

tem. It might also explain why part-time nurses leave HHHS, if that is what's happening.

And about housing: HHHS owned a home adjacent to the Minden hospital which sat empty for several years before and after a stint of renting it to Places for People. It was recently sold. HHHS rents property in the community in order to engage agency staff. Because I absolutely think housing is a problem, I asked a few years ago to engage in some way with HHHS to bring this issue to the fore and work on addressing it. I was redirected, nicely but firmly.

What's happening in Minden seems very parallel to the larger strategy of starving the health system to the point where killing it seems the greatest kindness. We get the leadership we elect.

Fay Martin,
Minden

To the Editor,

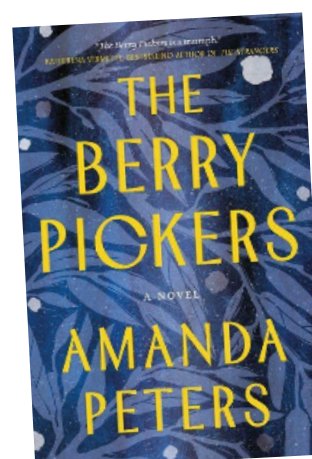
Lack of staff does not mean lack of need. How about our government properly fund our hospitals so people can get the care they rightfully need and deserve. Shame on the HHHS board and Carolyn Plummer for the underhanded way

this decision was made, for not inviting the stakeholders to brainstorm solutions, and for placing the lives of all our community members at imminent risk.

Andrea Neuenhagen,
Minden

more letter on page 8

HCPL's Book of the Week



A Mi'kmaq family from Nova Scotia experiences tragedy when their youngest child mysteriously vanishes while picking blueberries in Maine one summer. The loss of 4-year-old Ruthie will deeply affect the entire family for years, but will have a particularly profound effect on her six-year-old brother, Joe, who was the last to see her.

In Maine, another young girl is haunted by recurring dreams. As she grows older, she senses there is something her parents aren't telling her and begins digging into her family's secrets.

The story of these families's mysteries interconnect to form a stunning novel about the search for truth and the shadow of trauma. *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.

letters to the editor

Minden ER closure

To the Editor,

When we decided to retire we visited many small towns to try and find the town for us. We chose Minden and one of the key reasons was because of the hospital. We absolutely love this town and the people we have met. Now we are faced with living in a town with no available doctors and no walk-in clinics and now no emergency services, so essentially zero medical care

in our home town. This is very scary. We have used the emergency service twice already and we have only lived here for a year and the care received was wonderful. Closing the hospital will gravely affect not only our healthcare but also the economic growth of our town. Devastating decision for Minden on so many levels!

Paul and Elaine Neve,
Minden

To the Editor,

The closure of our Minden ER is unbelievably short-sighted, particularly in the suggested time frame. Combining the busiest ER in the county with an also busy Haliburton's, at the beginning of the most hectic time of year will, very likely, result in overcrowding, long wait times and incredible pressure on all the caregivers. This will have negative repercussions not only

for Minden people but for everyone in the county and beyond. I can envision the crowded waiting room, stretchers in the hallways and chaos we see and read about in city ERs, happening right here in our own backyard. Let's hope tragedy is not part of the new reality.

Pat Brezina,
Minden

To the Editor,

Serious surgical backlogs exist in Ontario. The Ford government's proposed solution lies in Bill 60, encouraging more private hospitals and clinics. However, many operating rooms remain closed in our public hospitals at night and on the weekends. Why not fund those? Sunnybrook and Michael Garron Hospitals in Toronto are partnering to reduce surgical backlogs by using existing hospital infrastructure and increasing staffing numbers for weekend surgeries. Staff from both hospitals create a larger team whose shifts can be spread out over the weekend to prevent burn out. This model uses a centralized intake in which patients are assigned to the surgeon with the shortest waiting time. Patients may still request a specific surgeon but could be subject to longer waiting times. Hopefully, other Toronto hospitals will join the initiative allowing for even faster patient care. In London, a specialized ambulatory surgical centre has been created for orthopedic patients. This centre is equipped with only instruments required for the specific surgery and fewer staff so

that the operations are faster, cheaper and more efficient - significantly reducing waiting times. Both innovations have been created within the public system. So why introduce more costly private clinics which could potentially poach staff from public hospitals when improvements and innovation can be achieved within the publicly funded system? Do we want our health care dollars to provide shareholder dividends instead of going to those who provide and facilitate our care? Do we want to invest in facilities not subject to the same standards as our public ones? Even though we are a rich province, our expenditure on healthcare per capita is the second lowest in the country. Instead of starving our healthcare system, to pave the way for privatization, the government needs to adequately fund hospitals and to create an environment where both family doctors and nurses are well paid and can enjoy a healthy work /life balance within a model of health care where equity of care is paramount.

Elizabeth Turner,
Soyers Lake

To the Editor,

In 1995 my twin brother Dr. David Fiddler (Ross Memorial Hospital Emergency Lindsay), called me urgently and apprised me that the Minden Emergency was going to close. He said that Minden suddenly lost all of their physicians and that they needed help and that he was recruiting Emergency Physicians. He had recruited some physicians from both Lindsay and Peterborough Emergency but he wanted me to see if any physicians from my Barrie Emergency group could also cover the Minden Emergency help out. Our cottage was in Wilberforce and we were familiar with both hospitals. It was summer and we knew that it would be too busy for Haliburton to look after alone. In short order we recruited the required number of physicians to staff the Minden Emergency. This core Emergency physician group from Barrie, Lindsay, and Peterborough Hospitals has continuously staffed the Minden Emergency since 1995. They have always been committed to the Minden site and they have worked tirelessly to keep the Minden site working. The physicians, nurses and staff were a team. We had very limited staff but their work and their

work ethic were nothing short of heroic. Minden Emergency provided an exceptional service with very little resources. So now, 27 years later, we are where we started. Summer is starting and Minden is about to close again. This time, unlike 1995 Minden has a dedicated, committed group of physicians working to keep the Minden Emergency open. Some of Minden's physicians have worked in Minden continuously for the past 27 years tirelessly making the drive from Barrie, Peterborough and Lindsay and when on call sometimes making the drive twice in one day. One can now only hope that the Haliburton Hospital can recruit enough dedicated, committed Emergency physicians like my brother Dr. David Fiddler did in 1995. Once again as in 1995, the recruiting time is short. On June 1 the Haliburton Emergency will have to care for both the population of Minden and Haliburton and the large surge of patients in the summer and their higher acuity which comes with summer traumas and elderly cottagers.

Dr. Doug Fiddler (Retired)
Minden

To the Editor,

I am a former member of the Board and Chair of the Quality Committee of HHHS. I have also been a director of several other not for profit organizations. I have both general and specific experience in issues similar to the decision to close the Minden ER. From everything I know and have heard, I believe that all of the Board members are committed and well intentioned directors; but, really, what were they thinking? I can not understand why the Board would announce the closure of the ER without any prior community consultation or involvement. And to do so with only a 6 week notice period is astonishingly insensitive and disrespectful. A Board can not treat its constituents in this way. The lack of transparency has increased the anger that our community rightly feels. It leads to all sorts of questions that could have been addressed through public consultations. For example, instead of taking pride that the Board only spent 13% on administrative costs, why didn't it spend more on recruitment? How can we know that the recruitment efforts were effectively managed? Why didn't the Board work harder to find accommodation for new hires; why didn't they reach out to the community to find jobs for spouses of candidates? What do the people who use the ER for their primary health care do now? There is no plan for the Minden site. To announce the ER closure before there is one is not a process that anyone would characterize as "inspired." Many of us have heard stories of internal efficiencies among recruitment staff; are they true? And are there valid answers to the lack of response that Jack Brezina raised in his article in the Times?

The process that has been followed has made a bad situation immeasurably worse. The damage that has been caused could have been lessened with transparency and with a forthright discussion of the issues facing the Board, rather than with after the fact justifications which leave open more questions than they answer. The substance of the decision to close the ER is now being debated in the Press. That is an impossible forum to discuss issues of this kind. There is no mutual dialogue. All we have is each side presenting its own position. It is difficult and perhaps impossible for lay people to present a complete substantive solution to the ER issue. We do not have enough facts or knowledge. But it is equally impossible to think that the Board would not have benefitted from ideas that the community could present. The Board just chose not to ask us. Because of the manner in which this announcement was handled there is confusion and anger. HHHS has alienated the community, the Minden Council and its donors (who include my wife and I). There are actions that can be taken to try and correct the situation that the Board has created. Enter into dialogue with the Council and interested community groups. Postpone the closing until a full discussion has occurred. Take a new look at the decision with input from the community, not to justify the decision that has been made, but to look for a new way forward, perhaps with the assistance of a third party consultant, that retains the ER on a full or part time basis. I hope the Board decides to rethink its decision and choose a new approach.

Charles Simon,
Toronto

To the Editor,

I was devastated to hear that Minden Emergency Department is to be closed and all facilities moved to Haliburton Hospital on June 1, 2023. I was born in the 1930s in Minden Hills and have seen the improvements in our Health Care facilities improve over the years. The closure of Minden Emergency Department will affect all of the tax payers who depend on the

convenience of travelling to Minden rather than Haliburton. I have experienced wonderful medical services at Minden Emergency from all the staff. Also, was informed by other residents who travelled from Lindsay to Minden for the prompt service because of wait times at Lindsay Hospital. In closing, I reiterate that it would be a huge mistake to close Minden Emergency Department.

Hazel Oliver,
Minden Hills

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NO LATER THAN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, AT 3:30PM



letters to the editor

Minden ER closure

To the Editor,

I don't write a letter to the editor very often but I am at a boiling point.

What a shame they are closing the Minden Emergency. When my husband and I have had to use this facility we have received the best of care.

Is it our fault that there is a shortage of doctors and nurses? No, look at who is running this province.

We received our vehicle license cheques back, why wasn't this given to the Health Care workers who worked their butts off to save people's lives during Covid and risking their own lives.

We watch a lot of sports in our house and I

can't believe all the commercials that are encouraging gambling. These poor people betting and losing their shirts thinking they are going to win big. The only winner is the Ford Government and what are they doing with this money, it sure as Hell is not going to Health Care.

Our MPP Laurie Scott quoted on many emails that it was for "the Betterment for the community". What a crock.

Hopefully we can resolve this and keep the Emergency open in Minden.

**Helen Burk,
Minden**

To the Editor,

It is crucial to postpone the closure of Minden Hospital and engage in a transparent and inclusive decision-making process that involves the community, local elected officials, nursing professionals, EMS personnel, and other stakeholders. This process should involve a thorough assessment of the potential impacts of the closure on vulnerable populations, healthcare staff, emergency response times, and public healthcare in the region.

It is essential to address the staffing shortage concerns and examine the broader implications of the closure on public healthcare in Ontario before making any decisions that could have lasting consequences for the community and the healthcare system.

• **Transparency and consultation:** The decision-making process behind the closure has been criticized for its lack of consultation with local elected officials, the community, and nursing professionals. Stakeholders are calling for a public meeting to discuss the closure and its impacts, demanding full transparency on the decision-making process, a reassessment of the closure's timing and impact, and access to a transparent and comprehensive transition plan.

• **Risk of increased response times:** The closure may also affect emergency response times, especially for residents living closer to Minden Hospital, putting lives at risk. Minden ER, with 13,000 annual visits, is one of the busiest in rural Ontario and has higher traffic than Haliburton's ER, emphasizing the importance of its continued operation during peak seasons when the population triples due to tourists and cottagers.

• **Impact on vulnerable populations and healthcare staff:** The closure of Minden Hospital raises concerns about its effects on elderly and low-income individuals, who are most likely to need emergency services. Longer travel times to access healthcare, coupled with limited transportation options, could leave the community without essential healthcare services. Furthermore, closing the hospital could result in longer wait times, overburdened staff, and reduced quality of care at the Haliburton hospital due to increased demand.

• **Nurses' perspective:** The Ontario Nurses' Association (ONA) has expressed concerns about the closure of Minden's ER, stating that it will put the lives of Ontarians needing emergency care at greater risk and leave those in the area with less access to emergency care. ONA's interim president, Bernadette (Bernie) Robinson, has also mentioned that the closure is likely to occur at more Ontario hospitals if the province continues to fail in taking meaningful action to retain and recruit nurses.

• **EMS perspective:** Closing Minden Hospital could have significant implications for EMS professionals. Increased travel times to Haliburton or other hospitals would place a higher burden on paramedics and first responders, resulting in longer response times and potentially compromising patient outcomes. This may also cause increased mental and physical stress on EMS

professionals, who would be required to cover larger distances, potentially affecting their ability to provide timely and effective care.

• **Staffing shortage concerns:** The local community has heard from several nurses who claim they have applied for employment with HHHS without receiving a response, leading them to question the nature of the staffing shortage cited as the reason for the hospital's closure. This raises concerns about whether adequate efforts have been made to address staffing issues before resorting to closing the hospital.

• **Lack of firm commitments from physicians:** The closure of Minden Hospital raises concerns about the availability of physicians who currently work at the Minden ER to continue providing services in Haliburton. There is a lack of firm commitments from these physicians to work in Haliburton following the closure, which could exacerbate the existing staffing shortages and compromise the quality of healthcare services in the region. Ensuring continuity of care and retaining experienced medical professionals is essential to maintain a high standard of healthcare for the community.

• **Lack of a clear and comprehensive transition plan:** There has been no clear and comprehensive transition plan shared with the public to address the concerns and challenges that may arise from the closure of Minden Hospital. This includes issues such as how the Haliburton hospital will accommodate the increased demand for services, parking, and other logistics. The upcoming road construction throughout the summer has not been taken into consideration, which could cause further delays and difficulties for patients and healthcare providers. A well-thought-out transition plan, with input from various stakeholders, is essential to ensure that if the closure is deemed necessary, it does not compromise the quality and accessibility of healthcare services in the region.

• **Broader implications for public healthcare:** The closure of Minden Hospital raises concerns about the broader implications for public healthcare in Ontario. Some critics, including Chris Glover, MPP for Spadina - Fort York, argue that this staffing shortage and public health crisis were created by the government's policies promoting private for-profit clinics, which are taking staff from public hospitals. Glover shared a story of a close friend who owed his life to Minden's ER and expressed his concerns about the potential closure. He stated, "I don't see how closing an emergency room is in the best interest of a community ... this staffing shortage and public health crisis were created by the government's policies promoting private for-profit clinics, which are taking staff from public hospitals. The Minden ER could be [another] victim of the government's pursuit to create a crisis and privatize public health care in Ontario."

**Submitted by
Patrick Porzuczek
Minden**

**Richard Bradley
Minden**

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Better dialogue needed between HHHS, townships: mayor

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The unpopular decision to close the Minden Emergency Department was likely worsened by a perceived lack of communication between stakeholders and Haliburton Highlands Health Services.

Minden Mayor Bob Carter said communication has been one of the issues he’s heard spoken about many times on the heels of the announcement to permanently close the health facility on June 1.

HHHS officials have said a lack of staffing is the main reason for the closure. Keeping both open will lead to repeated and unexpected temporary closures at one or both facilities over the busy summer period.

He told Carolyn Plummer, HHHS CEO and president, and David O’Brien, the service’s board of directors chairperson, during

a township council meeting April 27 that there’s been a disconnect between information given by HHHS and the perspectives of other officials in the county.

“I think it is clear that over the last period of time there have been many discussions regarding staffing issues,” he said.

There were even discussions about temporary closures of either the Minden or the Haliburton sites. But there was never discussion that one health care facility would close permanently.

“In your mind that perhaps was the inevitability of what you were talking about, but there was no clear communication about that,” Carter said.

As a consequence, the decision to close the Minden ER came as a complete shock to the four local mayors during an internet Zoom meeting before the official announcement.

“I just wanted to clear that out,” he said. “Understand that communication is be-

tween multiple individuals and the person who is delivering the communication has to make sure that the other side is hearing what was said.

“And we did not hear what you thought you were telling us.”

Carter suggested the closure be delayed to allow all stakeholders to discuss possible options, what could be a better solution.

“There is no perfect solution,” he said. “We have to work towards the optimal solution.”

“This has operated in such a way for decades and now you’re making a fundamental change in what has existed and worked for many, many years.”

Issues with communications between the parties was also broached on the upper tier level.

In an April 28 prepared statement, Haliburton County Warden Liz Danielsen said the upper tier council fully understands the level of frustration and concern being voiced by the Minden community and surrounding area that is currently served by the Minden Emergency Department.

She said county council, a governing body composed of the mayors and deputy mayors of the four lower tier municipalities, met Plummer and O’Brien at a special meeting held April 27.

That meeting took place in the afternoon, following the Minden council meeting.

Danielsen said the county meeting was to hear the rationale for the HHHS decision to permanently shutter the emergency facility.

But here’s the thing: That special meeting of county council was a closed session, held

“ Understand that communication is between multiple individuals and the person who is delivering the communication has to make sure that the other side is hearing what was said.

— BOB CARTER, MAYOR

without public access to view the proceedings or hear the discussion.

Members of the public is a very valuable stakeholder of the health care system. And residents were effectively cut out of the discussion between the county and HHHS.

“We will continue to advocate on behalf of our residents to ensure that HHHS responds to questions about reorganization and ongoing service delivery in the county, including identifying and attracting services to work out of the Minden site,” Danielsen said.

“To that end, council will be requesting that HHHS present their implementation plan to combine emergency services at a special meeting in May.”

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Tim Kegel
705-341-9170
incineratingtoilets.ca
info@incineratingtoilets.ca

HHHS staff speak with county council

Haliburton County Council fully understands the level of frustration and concern being voiced by the Minden community and surrounding area that is currently served by the Minden Emergency Department.

Council met with Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) CEO Carolyn Plummer and Board Chair David O'Brien at a special meeting held Apr. 27 to hear the rationale for their decision to close the Minden Emergency Room (ER) on June 1.

After considerable dialogue with the HHHS representatives, Council remains extremely concerned and dissatisfied in their decision and the timing associated with the closure. We also continue to be disappointed in the absence of communication between County Council, the community and

HHHS over the last number of months while this step was being considered.

We will continue to advocate on behalf of our residents to ensure that HHHS responds to questions about reorganization and ongoing service delivery in the County, including identifying and attracting services to work out of the Minden site. To that end Council will be requesting that HHHS present their implementation plan to combine emergency services at a special meeting in May.

Council's primary goal is to work collaboratively with the HHHS Board of Directors to ensure the highest quality of care possible in the County. Council has voiced a willingness to advocate with upper levels of Government for improved financial resources to ease pressures and help with

the implementation of improvements. We will also continue to review how our EMS (Emergency Medical Services) and Community Paramedicine Programs can assist, as well as how they may be impacted.

HHHS have agreed to involve County Council in the completion of their operational Strategic Plan as well as working on the Capital Master Plan due to be finalized this fall.

Council is committed to ensure that effective health care services continue to be provided to all residents of Haliburton County and the visitors we welcome.

Submitted by Haliburton County Council

Post House settles with Township of MH and rezones

The Haliburton Post House is delighted to announce that it has been successfully rezoned from Seasonal Residential (SR) to Recreation Commercial – Exception Twenty-One (C3-21) pursuant to a settlement agreement with the Township of Minden Hills and a favourable oral decision by the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) on April 26, 2023.

The Post House is now officially designated as a tourist resort establishment.

"We are thankful and grateful to the many community members and businesses who have welcomed us and have been very supportive during the rezoning process. We look forward to building on these relationships and steadily forging new ones in the Highlands and beyond," said Heather Milstein, Managing Director.

"We look forward to collaborating with many stakeholders to provide memorable experiences and exquisite fine dining to corporate and leisure groups, as well as to local community members and businesses, year-round, in the beautiful Highlands setting" added Joel Baker, CEO.

"On behalf of Ontario's Highlands, we are excited to welcome the Haliburton Post House to our region's unique and outstanding signature collection of rural tourism and hospitality assets. The Post House will contribute greatly to the elevation of our offerings to both domestic and international high value guests keen for rich, authentic, nature, heritage and culinary experiences in Haliburton Highlands," said Holly Blefgen, Ontario's Highlands Travel Trade Specialist.

"The Post House enriches our tourism offering by providing the highest quality accommodations, food and customer service. We do not hesitate to refer travelers to this fine facility. We look forward to providing their guests with memorable experiences and opportunities to explore the Haliburton Highlands" added Barrie Martinn, Experience Broker, Yours Outdoors, A Division of Haliburton Forest.

About the Haliburton Post House

This storied escape all began with a single-family cottage nestled on the southwest edge of Lake Kashagawigamog in Ingoldsby, almost a century ago. Then in 1947, a "post house," was built from logs hewn from the property itself which became the hub of this clearly Canadian compound.

Fast forward to 2018 when it was acquired by Glencedar Inc., a company owned by Joel Baker, and began to reinvent and restore the Post House as a complete luxury lakeside retreat where small groups can reconnect, in total privacy and

rustic luxury, forge new memories and enjoy adventures of all kinds.

Submitted





Notice of a Complete Application and Public Meeting
For Proposed Zoning By-law Amendment

Take Notice that the Council of the Township of Minden Hills will hold a Public Meeting on:

Date: Thursday, May 25, 2023
Time: 9:00 AM
Location: This will be held as a virtual meeting

To Watch: Members of the Public wishing to watch the meeting can do so by joining the Meeting Live Stream Link: <https://youtube.com/live/wmmdOqymFR8?feature=share>

To Participate: Members of the public wishing to participate and make comment/speak at the Public Meeting(s) must: pre-register by emailing admin@mindenhills.ca by Wednesday May 24th before 4:00 PM or by attending and registering the morning of the meeting before 8:30 AM

Participants registering after 8:30 AM will not be permitted into the public meeting. Once registered, participants will automatically be placed into a holding room and brought into the meeting as permitted by the Chair. To attend the Zoom virtual meeting via Web, type <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84676913233?pwd=aJNRE05cy9ybZtWTRmdlBxRjhUUT09> into your browser or attend by dialing the number below: Telephone: 1-647-374-4685 or 1-647-558-0588 Webinar ID: 846 7691 3233 Passcode: 182161

Written Submissions either in support of or opposition to the applications must be received prior to the Public Meeting and can be submitted to admin@mindenhills.ca

The purpose of the Public Meeting will be to consider zoning by-law amendment application **PLZBA2023025** pursuant to Section 34 of the Planning Act as follows:

PLZBA2023025 – Part Lot 26, Concession 6, Geographic Township of Minden Hills, being a vacant lot on Shipley Drive and having roll numbers 4616-031-000-42700 and 4616-031-000-43100; and being on Kashagawigamog Lake (see Key Map).



Purpose and Effect of the Application: The subject property is currently zoned 'Rural' and is located primarily within the Waterfront and Rural designation of the Township's Official Plan. The zoning by-law amendment is submitted to fulfill a condition of consent application H-028-22, which would serve to sever a portion of Part Lot 26, Concession 6 for the purpose of a lot addition benefiting an adjacent property, being 1090 Shipley Drive. The proposed amendment would serve to rezone the lands from 'Rural (RU)' to 'Shoreline Residential (SR)' to provide uniform zoning on the resultant enlarged lot.

Additional Information regarding this application is available for public inspection at the Township of Minden Hills Building and Planning Department by appointment only.

Any Person may attend the public meeting and/or make written or verbal representation either in support of or in opposition to the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment.

If a Person Or Public Body does not make oral submission at a public meeting or make written submission to the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills before the by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

If a Person Or Public Body does not make oral submission at a public meeting, or make written submission to the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills before the by-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

If You Wish to Be Notified of the decision of the Township of Minden Hills in respect to the proposed zoning by-law amendment, you must submit a written request to the Township of Minden Hills. For more information about this matter, including information about preserving your appeal rights, contact the undersigned at admin@mindenhills.ca.

Accessibility: The Township of Minden Hills is committed to providing services as set out in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. If you have accessibility needs and require alternative formats or other accommodations, please contact the undersigned.

Privacy Disclosure: As one of the purposes of the Planning Act is to provide for planning processes that are open and accessible, all written submissions, documents, correspondence, e-mails or other communications (including your name and address) form part of the public record and may be disclosed/made available by the Township as deemed appropriate, including anyone requesting such information. Please note that by submitting any of this information, you are providing the Township with your consent to use and disclose this information as part of the planning process.

Trisha McKibbin, CAO/Clerk
7 Milne Street, P.O. Box 359
Minden, ON. K0M 2K0



Thanking our first responders

Chris Shelly, the training officer for Algonquin Highlands first responders, shows some very eager kids how to use the Jaws of Life. /Submitted by Chad Ingram



Huxley Brown tries on a pair of firefighter boots during the First Responders Open House on May 1. /Submitted by Chad Ingram



Ready to save the day!

Minden Hills firefighter Michael Xerri helps Bryson Reid, 4, use a fire hose during a demonstration to mark First Responders Day on Monday. /ADAM FRISK special to the Times



Community events sponsored by

Lisa Mercer



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cell: 705.457.0364

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**Send your event listing to
classifieds@haliburtonpress.com**

Artist Call for Vendors: Kash Art on the Water

When: Deadline is May 31
Where: www.lko.ca

The Lake Kashagawigamog Organization is welcoming fine artisans/makers to join our third Annual Kash Art on the Water event. Complete the Artist Registration Form using the link provided below. Deadline to register to be included in print promotions is May 31. Beyond this date, exhibitors will be included in online promotions only. Registration is \$50 per artisan and can be made directly at www.lko.ca or by contacting Lesley Sims – Cell: 416-566-9464

Cooking on a Budget

When: Wednesday May 3, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Where: Sirch Bistro & Bakery

For a \$5 fee you will learn how to make a new dish, get to bring a plate home or eat for dinner after making it! RSVP to events@sirch.on.ca or call the office at 705-457-1742 for more info.

Biggest Book Sale Ever!

Places for People Fundraiser

When: May 6, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.,
Where: Haliburton Fish Hatchery, 6712 Gelert Rd
Over 2000 titles! Mushrooms, permaculture, gardening, enviro-building, martial arts, spirituality, alternative energy, alternative healing, dousing, and more! For a donation of \$100, you get an exclusive first-pick of 10 books between 8 and 10 am. To pre-register please e-transfer info@placesforpeople.ca or bring cash to the door!

This fundraiser is made possible by the friends and family of Paul Stone, an eclectic builder of homes and community, connector of ideas and people, and collector who cared deeply for the environment. Places For People greatly appreciates that we are the recipients of the proceeds from this sale.

Music by Bill Candy

When: May 6, 2pm

Where: Haliburton Legion Clubroom

Come join us for a musical performance by Bill Candy. Doors open at 2pm, all are welcome-

entry for non-members is \$5. Chili or potato soup & a roll will also be available for \$5.

Community Cardboard Village Workshops

When: Sat., May 6, 20, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Where: Sirch Bistro & Bakery

The Arts Council-Haliburton Highlands is inviting families with children from five to 12 years of age, to join them for a hands-on collaborative project in the training centre at the Bistro.

Mother's Day Food Bank Fill-Up

When: Saturday May 13, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Where: Haliburton and Wilberforce Foodlands

The Haliburton & District Lions Club will be collecting food bank donations at the Haliburton and Wilberforce Foodland locations. All donations will be distributed to the 4Cs and Wilberforce foodbanks. For more information visit haliburtonlions.com.

Minden Legion Branch 636

Lunch - Monday to Friday

Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.

Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.

Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.

Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.

Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.

Every other Friday Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.

Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.

Call ahead any day for take-out:

705-286-4541

Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.



Minden Hills Fire Chief Shain Duda poses for a photo in front of a display of what residents should have in a 72-hour emergency kit.

Summer 2023 tourism predictions

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

April 24 to 28 was observed as Tourism Week across Canada. To kick off the week, manager of tourism for Haliburton County, Tracie Bertrand sat down with the *Times* to discuss the future of tourism in the area, as we move forward in a post-pandemic world.

“I predict domestic travel will continue to drop a little as many Ontarians are wanting to return to their normal travel patterns,” she said, “but the same is true of the international traveler; they will want to travel to Canada and particularly Ontario again.”

Bertrand shared that a major audience they will be targeting locally are the “visiting friends and relatives” market. Her reasoning behind this, is that they are an engaged and captivated market, and interested in exploring “their own backyard.”

While international travel is on the rise yet again, Bertrand predicts that we will be seeing folks from all over the world exploring the Haliburton Highlands in the coming seasons. “Destination Canada research indicates that 2023 will be a boom for international visitors as all restrictions have been lifted,” she said. “It is expected that this market may return to pre-pandemic numbers by 2025, and Haliburton Highlands has incredible offerings for this market.”



Crowds gathered to watch the Minden Pride river parade on the Gull River during the Pride Street Fest last August. /FILE photo

She also believes that the region will see a boom in business travel, group travel, and sports tourism, starting this summer.

With the looming boom in tourism,

Bertrand noted that communications with the community will be the utmost priority for the county tourism department. Based on recent studies collected from the department, less than half the county understands what the tourism department does at a county level. “My goal is to increase that number, and prioritize efforts to ensure that our communities and residents are knowledgeable about the positive impacts the visitor economy has on economic prosperity,” she told the *Times*.

With over 1.4 million visitors coming to the Highlands each year, Bertrand noted that the tourism receipts are approximately \$210 million. She believes these numbers can be sustainably increased over time. Even with international travel on the rise yet again, Bertrand shared that the most strongest markets up to this point have been based out of the GTA, Ottawa, and Quebec. “We will look to build loyalty with our visitors, encouraging them to stay longer, and plan an additional visit in the upcoming seasons,” she said.

Bertrand noted that another type of tourism on the rise is cycle tourism. “Cycle tourists tend to spend about four times more than the traditional visitor,” she said. “That cycle tourism demographic fits nicely with the audience that we are focusing on as well.” In order to have a streamlined focus with this demographic, Bertrand and her tourism team have updated their website to include GPS bike tours, as well as a series of trails in the area.

While tourism is chugging ahead to try to meet pre-pandemic numbers, the elephant in the room continues to be housing and jobs. Bertrand shared that she recently attended the Job Fair with the county’s director of economic development, Scott Ovell, and was inspired to hear that so many employers are not only paying above minimum wage, but also including housing as a part of their summer employment package. While there are some outside the box ideas around how to get staff over the summer months, Bertrand shared that she recognizes this is an ongoing concern. She mentioned that the tourism stakeholders have also voiced their concerns about a limited workforce, and hope that they will have enough staff for the summer months.

Bertrand and Ovell are mindful of these concerns, and encourage stakeholders to share their challenges with the county, so that decisions can be made around these first-hand experiences.

With summer months starting soon, Bertrand and her team have updated the county tourism site, and have included pages such as summer camps, pet friendly experiences, health and wellness stops, and annual events and festivals. They have also included maps to two new trails: the Round Algonquin Loop, and the Minden Hills Nature Ride. Access to these maps are free via www.my-haliburtonhighlands.com.

Overall, Bertrand is excited to kick off an exciting summer season, and looks forward to exploring new territory in the region. “We are blessed in Haliburton Highlands with fantastic tourism operators, passionate and caring residents and volunteers, a stunning natural destination,” she said. “It is the people in the destination that make a difference and add to the visitor experience.”

Sudoku brought to you by



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SUDOKU

8	4				5			7
						1	5	
6					1			
	1						7	3
			4	6		2		9
	7	3			2			
1				9	8		3	
			5				6	4

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 14



Singing into spring
Gord Kidd and his band played at the Minden Legion on Saturday, April 29. The musicians played to an energetic crowd, adding cheer to a gloomy weekend. /TIM YANO special to the *Times*

Healthy aging

SPRING IS here. The sun is starting to warm up the frozen ground and the birds can be heard singing sighs of relief. There is a feeling of warmth in the breeze which revives our hibernating spirits. Spring is often a time of new beginnings, a fresh start, maybe even stirs the feeling of wanting to try something new. This time of year often encourages and motivates us to get outside and be more active.

The Haliburton Highlands are a hidden gem. Full of hiking and biking trails, lakes and rivers. We are lucky to be surrounded by green space, which in itself provides many health benefits. When you live here it's easy to take our natural surroundings for granted. To be able to walk out the front door and take a deep breath of clean Northern air is a gift. And to be outside enjoying it is one of the best things you can do for yourself to promote healthy aging.

You are never too old to try something new or start taking better care of yourself. Physical exercise is one of the most important things you can do for your health. It can be challenging to know where to start of course, as floods of trendy workouts overpower our social feeds. One of the best, easiest, and cheapest ways to introduce physical activity is simply by going outside for a walk.

Maybe the thought of pounding pavement through your joints makes you cringe, but it's actually the opposite. Walking improves range of motion and mobility because of increased blood flow to tense areas and it helps to strengthen the muscles surrounding the joints. When cartilage is lost in our joints, we get bone on bone friction which of course can lead to pain. But what's left to support that joint? The muscles. Think of the muscles around your knees like the guy-wires on a ship, basically a tensioned cable designed to add stability to a free standing structure. If those cables are loose, the structure won't work properly. The muscles surrounding your joints are extremely important to keep the joint itself strong.

Walking is a safe, inexpensive physical activity for those of all fitness levels. Walking increases cardiovascular fitness, strengthens our bones, reduces excess body fat, and boosts muscle power and endurance. Our calf muscles act as a venous pump, contracting and pumping blood from the feet and legs back to the heart which reduces the load on the heart. This boost of healthy blood flow can help to reduce blood clots and improve circulation.

There are also various benefits of being outdoors. Cortisol levels (our stress hormone) are reduced significantly when being outside as it helps our bodies relax and decreases muscle tension and heart rate. It also releases endorphins which is our feel good hormone. This reduces feelings of sadness, anger, fear, and can improve self-esteem. All of these benefits can help to reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease.



KASSIE BRADLEY
Wellness Corner with Kassie

Start walking for 15 minutes, three days a week. Pay attention to posture, and make sure you are wearing a comfortable shoe. Start at an easy relaxed pace and pay attention to your body. Does anything hurt when you walk? How do you feel? The next week, try to increase the time and pace. Walk for 20 minutes, four days a week. The next week, try doing it for the same time, but ramping up your pace a bit. If all feels good, move on to 30 minutes, five days a week at a pace that gets your heart rate up. Drink plenty of water. And as always, consult with your physician before starting any exercise program.

As you continue to walk, you may notice your pants getting looser. Not only does it burn calories, 200 to be exact for a 30 minute walk, and help you reduce weight but it also improves your body's response to insulin. Insulin is the hormone that controls blood sugar levels. If it's raining outside you can head over to the indoor walking track at the Minden Arena.

It goes around the gymnasium below so you can watch activities from above to keep yourself entertained.

Let's look at some interesting facts from the Harvard School of Public Health;

- Post menopausal women who walk just one to two miles a day can lower their blood pressure by nearly 11 points in 24 weeks
- Women who walk 30 minutes a day can reduce their risk of stroke by 20 per cent and by 40 per cent when they stepped up the pace
- A study found that post menopausal women who walk 30 minutes each day reduce the risk of hip fractures by 40 per cent

I know it's tempting to grab that glass of wine after dinner and some chocolate, but going for a walk is a zero calorie strategy to implement. Staying active is one of the main ways to prevent common health concerns that come with age and can help to maintain the independence needed to stay self sufficient.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

8	4	6	1	3	5	9	2	7
7	3	9	2	8	4	1	5	6
2	5	1	9	7	6	3	4	8
6	9	7	3	2	1	4	8	5
4	1	2	8	5	9	6	7	3
3	8	5	4	6	7	2	1	9
5	7	3	6	4	2	8	9	1
1	6	4	7	9	8	5	3	2
9	2	8	5	1	3	7	6	4



PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant: Clark
Lot 7, Concession 10, Kabakwa Lake
Geographic Township of Stanhope

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands has declared part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 7, Concession 10, Kabakwa Lake, in the geographic Township of Stanhope, in the Township of Algonquin Highlands, County of Haliburton, to be surplus.

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Municipal Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands proposes to enact a By-Law to stop-up, close and convey to the abutting property owner(s) that part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 7, Concession 10, described as all and singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Geographic Township of Stanhope, in the County of Haliburton and being composed of the following:

FIRSTLY: PART of the Original Shore Allowance in front of Lot 7, Concession 10, geographic Township of Stanhope, described as Part 1 on a Plan deposited in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of Haliburton County as Plan 19R-10768.

The proposed By-Law will come before the said Council for consideration at its regular meeting at the Algonquin Highlands Municipal Office, 1123 North Shore Road, on the **18th day of May, 2023** and at that time, the Council will hear in person or by his/her counsel, solicitor or agent any person who claims that his/her land will be prejudicially affected and who applies to be heard. Any person who wishes to be heard by Council regarding this proposed closure must contact the Clerk to schedule a delegation with Council.

Dated: May 3rd, 2023

Sean O'Callaghan
Planner
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Rd.
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1
Tel: (705) 489-2379
Email: socallaghan@algonquinhighlands.ca



PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant: Holdcroft
Lot 2, Concession 7, Kushog Lake
Geographic Township of Stanhope

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands has declared part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 2, Concession 7, Kushog Lake, in the geographic Township of Stanhope, in the Township of Algonquin Highlands, County of Haliburton, to be surplus.

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Municipal Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands proposes to enact a By-Law to stop-up, close and convey to the abutting property owner(s) that part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 2, Concession 7, described as all and singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Geographic Township of Stanhope, in the County of Haliburton and being composed of the following:

FIRSTLY: PART of the Original Shore Allowance in front of Lot 2, Concession 7, geographic Township of Stanhope, described as Part 1 on a Plan deposited in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of Haliburton County as Plan 19R-10765.

The proposed By-Law will come before the said Council for consideration at its regular meeting at the Algonquin Highlands Municipal Office, 1123 North Shore Road, on the **18th day of May, 2023** and at that time, the Council will hear in person or by his/her counsel, solicitor or agent any person who claims that his/her land will be prejudicially affected and who applies to be heard. Any person who wishes to be heard by Council regarding this proposed closure must contact the Clerk to schedule a delegation with Council.

Dated: May 3rd, 2023

Sean O'Callaghan
Planner
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Rd.
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1
Tel: (705) 489-2379
Email: socallaghan@algonquinhighlands.ca



PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant: Corbett
Lot 19, Concession 11, Big Hawk Lake
Geographic Township of Stanhope

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands has declared part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 19, Concession 11, Big Hawk Lake Geographic Township of Stanhope, in the Township of Algonquin Highlands, County of Haliburton, to be surplus.

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Municipal Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands proposes to enact a By-Law to stop-up, close and convey to the abutting property owner(s) that part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 19, Concession 11, described as all and singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Geographic Township of Stanhope, in the County of Haliburton and being composed of the following:

FIRSTLY: PART of the Original Shore Allowance in front of Lot 19, Concession 11, and part of Lot 19, Concession 11, designated as Road Allowance on registered plan No. 183, geographic township of Stanhope, described as Parts 1 & 2 on a Plan deposited in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of Haliburton County as Plan 19R-10767.

The proposed By-Law will come before the said Council for consideration at its regular meeting at the Algonquin Highlands Municipal Office, 1123 North Shore Road, on the **18th day of May, 2023** and at that time, the Council will hear in person or by his/her counsel, solicitor or agent any person who claims that his/her land will be prejudicially affected and who applies to be heard. Any person who wishes to be heard by Council regarding this proposed closure must contact the Clerk to schedule a delegation with Council.

Dated: May 3rd, 2023

Sean O'Callaghan
Planner
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Rd.
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1
Tel: (705) 489-2379
Email: socallaghan@algonquinhighlands.ca



Committee of Adjustment - Notice of Public Hearing (Rescheduled Meeting)
Applications For Minor Variance

TAKE NOTICE THAT due to technical issues, the public hearing scheduled for April 24, 2023 was cancelled. In accordance with By-law #20-84 a Special Meeting of the Committee of Adjustment is being scheduled to otherwise proceed with the public hearings.

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Committee of Adjustment of the Township of Minden Hills will hold a Public Hearing on:

DATE: Monday, May 15, 2023
TIME: 9:30 AM
LOCATION: This meeting will be held as an electronic hearing by way of a virtual meeting.

To participate:

Join the meeting by telephone by dialing either: 1-647-374-4685 OR 1-647-558-0588
Enter Meeting ID: 831 7329 0508 and Passcode: 843561

Join the meeting using a computer or smart phone at:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83173290508?pwd=M3hkOFdseVB0d0NsczZHYXhzVXZDdz09>

Members of the public are welcome to watch the Committee of Adjustment meeting by joining YouTube at: <https://youtube.com/live/ot2CSHem8-Y?feature=share>

Members of the public wishing to participate and make comment/speak at the Public Hearing must pre-register by emailing dsisson@mindenhills.ca by Friday May 12th before 4:00 PM or by attending and registering the morning of the meeting before 9:00 AM. Participants registering after 9:00 AM will not be permitted into the public hearing.

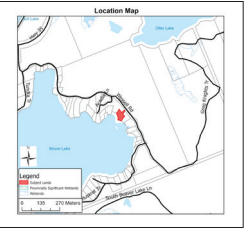
Once registered, participants will automatically be placed into a holding room and brought into the hearing as permitted by the Chair. Please note the live-stream link provided for each hearing will only be activated while Committee of Adjustment is in session.

The purpose of the Public Meeting will be to consider Minor Variance Applications PLMV2022100, PLMV2023002, PLMV2023006, PLMV2023014, PLMV2023018 and PLMV2023021 and the proposed minor variances to the Township of Minden Hills Zoning By-law pursuant to Section 45 of the Planning Act as shown below:

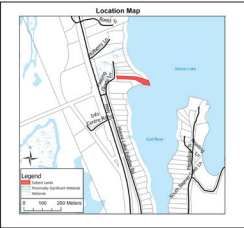
PLMV2022100 - Part Lot 18, Concession 2, Geographic Township of Minden; municipally known as 1017 Canfield Lane and located on Canning Lake (See Key Map).
Purpose and Effect of the Application: The purpose of the application is to provide relief from the Township of Minden Hills Zoning By-law 06-10, as amended, to permit the construction of a two-storey, 44.6 square metre addition to an existing two-storey, 69.11 square metre dwelling on an existing undersized lot. The effect of the application would be to permit an increase in the ground floor area of the existing cottage by 64.5% whereas an increase in 25% is otherwise permitted. The effect of the application would also permit an increase in size of the dwelling, being a structure located in part within 15 metres of the high-water mark, where no size increase is otherwise permitted.



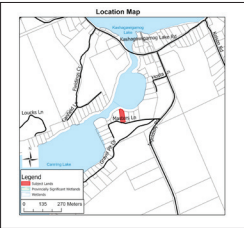
PLMV2023002 - Part Lot 22, Concession 5, Geographic Township of Lutterworth municipally known as 1244 Wessell Road and located on East Moore Lake (See Key Map).
Purpose and Effect of the Application: The purpose of the application is to provide relief from the Township of Minden Hills Zoning By-law 06-10, as amended, to permit the tear down of an existing one-storey dwelling with attached decks and having reduced water and front lot line setbacks to construct a new 1.5-storey dwelling with a partial walkout basement and attached deck and covered porch. The effect of the application would permit an increase in the dwelling height of 3.93 metres whereas otherwise an increase of 1.2 metres is permitted, together with an increased dwelling size of 205.6% whereas a maximum of 25% is permitted. The application will also serve to recognize high-water mark and front lot line setbacks for the covered porch, being a new structure, of 15.24 metres and 4.03 metres, respectively whereas otherwise 23 metres is required.



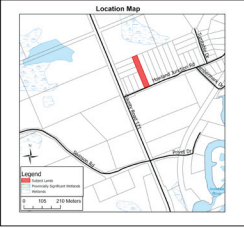
PLMV2023006 - Part Lot 27, Concession 5, Geographic Township of Lutterworth; municipally known as 1022 Passing Grade and located on Moore Lake (See Key Map).
Purpose and Effect of the Application: The purpose of the application is to provide relief from the Township of Minden Hills Zoning By-law 06-10, as amended, to permit the expansion of a one-storey dwelling in the form of a new sunroom and to enlarge an existing attached deck having a setback to the high-water mark of 14.5 metres. The effect of the application would permit a reduced side yard setback of 4.2 metres to the sunroom whereas otherwise 4.5 metres is required and to further permit an increased deck size of 45.9% whereas no increase in size is permitted within 15 metres of the high water mark; and to further permit a roof overhang of 2.46 metres over a portion of the existing deck.



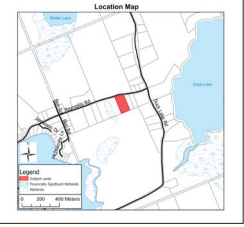
PLMV2023014 - Part Lot 19, Concession 2, Geographic Township of Minden; municipally known as 1048 Masters Lane and located on Canning Lake Kashagawigamog Lake Narrows (See Key Map).
Purpose and Effect of the Application: The purpose and effect of the application is to provide relief from the Township of Minden Hills Zoning By-law 06-10, as amended to permit the addition of a second story on a portion of the existing dwelling having a deficient water yard setback of 7.6 metres, together with construction of a screened porch, on an undersized lot. The effect of the application would permit an increased height of 6.86 metres and increased size of 108.6 square metres, whereas otherwise no increase in size or height is permitted within 15 metres of the highwater mark.



PLMV2023018 - Part Lot 5, Concession A, Geographic Township of Snowdon; municipally known as 1031 Howland Junction Road (See Key Map).
Purpose and Effect of the Application: The purpose and effect of the application is to provide relief from the Township of Minden Hills Zoning By-law 06-10, as amended to permit the construction of a single storey detached garage having a ground floor area of 47.6 square metres, to located in the front yard, being closer to the public road than the main dwelling.



PLMV2023021 - Part Lot 17, Concession 8, Geographic Township of Minden; municipally known as 1640 Reynolds Road (See Key Map).
Purpose and Effect of the Application: The purpose of the application is to provide relief from the Township of Minden Hills Zoning By-law 06-10, as amended, to permit the construction of a 2-storey detached garage having a ground floor area of 95 square metres. The effect of the application would permit a new deficient side yard of 3 metres whereas a setback of 10 metres is otherwise required, and being located being closer to the public road than the main dwelling; as well as to permit the upper floor of the proposed garage to be used as an exercise area and home office.



Additional information regarding these applications will be available online. Links to meeting agendas and full reports can be found on our Minden Hills Civic Web. A copy of the complete applications will be available for public inspection at the Township of Minden Hills Building and Planning Department by appointment only.

Input on the above noted applications is welcome and encouraged. You can provide input by speaking at the public meeting or by making a written submission to the Township. To provide input in writing, or to request written notice of the decision, please contact the undersigned or e-mail adougherty@mindenhills.ca.

Any person or agency who is of the opinion that holding the hearing as an electronic hearing is likely to cause them significant prejudice, may make a submission to the undersigned, and if the Committee is satisfied that holding the hearing as an electronic hearing is likely to cause the party significant prejudice then the hearing will be re-scheduled as an oral hearing. If a person or agency does not make a submission to the Secretary-Treasurer prior to the electronic hearing, and the person or agency does not participate in the hearing in accordance with this Notice, then the Committee may proceed without the party's participation and the party will not be entitled to any further notice in the proceeding.

Accessibility: The Township of Minden Hills is committed to providing services as set out in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. If you have accessibility needs and require alternative formats or other accommodations, please contact the undersigned.

Privacy Disclosure: As one of the purposes of the Planning Act is to provide for planning processes that are open and accessible, all written submissions, documents, correspondence, e-mails or other communications (including your name and address) form part of the public record and may be disclosed/made available by the Township as deemed appropriate, including anyone requesting such information. Please note that by submitting any of this information, you are providing the Township with your consent to use and disclose this information as part of the planning process.

For more information about this matter contact at adougherty@mindenhills.ca or 705-742-2297 ext. 278
Amanda Dougherty
Township Planning Consultant
Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment
P.O. Box 359, 7 Milne Street, Minden ON, K0M 2K0



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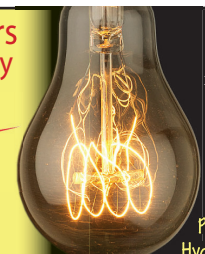
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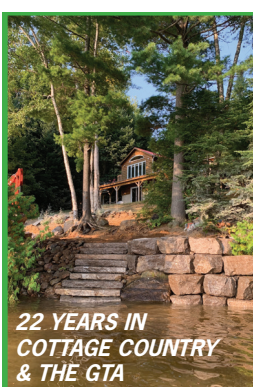
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between minister Surinder-Kaur and
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We are looking for a Night Patrol staff to supervise
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of site through routine patrol, supervision of clients, collection and logging of nightly
occurrences, clear communication with staff, faculty, and students. The Night Patrol will
identify any issues throughout the evening; immediately notify Onondaga Staff and
Faculty to ensure the safety of students, staff and site.

This is NOT a full time position
Shifts and weekly hours vary
NO ACCOMODATION PROVIDED

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*If you wish to apply, please send a resume to Matt Brown/Site Manager at
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Camp Northland is a residential summer camp located in the beautiful Haliburton Highlands, for children aged 7-16. We are looking to hire candidates to join our Housekeeping/Maintenance team, with opportunities to live on or off-site. For more information about our camp, visit www.campnbb.com

Regular day-to-day work can include, but is not limited to, cleaning, sweeping, mopping and sanitizing all camp

buildings, camp garbage collection and disposal, building/carpentry, repairing, landscaping, and painting.

Expected Start date: Spring 2023

Previous experience in maintenance, landscaping, or related field an asset. Candidates will be trained on-site and must enjoy working outside in a team-oriented, collaborative environment. Candidates can expect to work approx 35-40 hours per week. Must be willing to complete all government related certifications, including WHIMS.

Salary: \$15.50-\$19.50 per hour, based on experience

To apply, please submit resume and application letter to Rob@campnbb.com



Camp Timberlane is a co-ed residential summer camp for campers aged 6 – 16 and is looking to hire candidates to join our onsite Housekeeping team. For more information about the camp, visit us at www.Camptimberlane.ca

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facilities. Cleaning and light maintenance duties include, but not limited to sweeping, mopping, cleaning, painting and replenishing supplies needed for showers and washrooms.

Expected Start date: Immediately

Candidates must enjoy working outside. A typical work week is 40 hours with potential for overtime. Willing to take required government safety certifications such as WHMIS. Able to support a positive team environment. Salary: Housekeeping \$17.50 - \$19.50 per hour based on experience..

Submit resume by email to Jay@camptimberlane.ca

**Maintenance Manager: Full time**

The Camp Maintenance Manager is responsible for overseeing and directing the maintenance team at our residential summer camp, under the guidance and supervision of the Facilities Director. This person will ensure the camp's facilities, grounds, and equipment are kept in good condition and safe for campers and staff to use. The Manager works closely with the Facilities Director and other members of the team to plan and execute maintenance projects and manage the daily operations of the maintenance team. For more information about our camp, visit www.campnbb.com

Key responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Hire, train and supervise the maintenance staff to ensure that all work is completed to a high standard and in a timely manner.
- Direct the maintenance and repair of camp's facilities, equipment and electrical and mechanical systems
- Coordinate and participate in all cleaning, sweeping, mopping and sanitizing all camp buildings, camp garbage collection and disposal, building/carpentry, repairing, landscaping, and painting.
- Develop and implement schedules and procedures for safety inspections and preventive maintenance programs.
- Conduct routine inspections of camp facilities, equipment, and grounds to identify areas in need of repair or maintenance.
- Coordinate and oversee the repair or replacement of damaged equipment and facilities as necessary.
- Manage the inventory of maintenance supplies and materials, and order new supplies as needed.

Expected Start date: Spring 2023

Previous supervisory experience in maintenance, landscaping, or related field an asset. Candidates will be trained on-site and must enjoy working outside in a team-oriented, collaborative environment. Candidates can expect to work approx 35-45 hours per week. Must be willing to complete all government related certifications, including WHIMS.

Salary: \$40,000-\$65,000, based on experience

To apply, or for more information, please submit resume and application letter to Simon@campnbb.com

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**Committee of Adjustment Vacancy**

Council is seeking one (1) interested individual representing Ward 1 or Ward 3 to fill a vacancy as a Committee member for the remainder of the term of Council.

As a Committee Member you will:

- Be a Canadian citizen, 18 years of age or older;
- Be a qualified elector in the Township of Algonquin Highlands;
- Have a planning background by education or experience;
- Have knowledge of rural Ontario issues;
- Understand general land use planning concepts and processes;
- Have knowledge of the Township's Official Plan and Zoning By-law;
- Be available to attend meetings during the day; and
- Not be an employee of the Township of Algonquin Highlands or the County of Haliburton.

Note: Members are appointed to serve as individuals and shall not represent a specific interest group or agency. Members shall be chosen based on their interest, experience, availability, academic qualifications and expertise that they possess. Preference will be given to the criteria above, however applicants without the above listed technical background may also be considered. The public member appointments may be renewed once, but such member shall not serve more than 2 consecutive terms of Council unless explicitly authorized by Council due to continuity of function related to a specific issue or planning exercise.

Any person having an interest in being appointed to the Committee of Adjustment is invited to submit an expression of interest no later than Friday May 26th, 2023, at 4 pm, detailing relevant experience and skills to the attention of:

Sean O'Callaghan B.U.R.P.I, MCIP, RPP
Planner

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We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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The successful candidate must have access to their own transportation.

*Interested candidates should forward their resume
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Vivian Collings or Emily Stonehouse by **Friday, May 5, 2023***

Vivian Collings vivian@haliburtonpress.com
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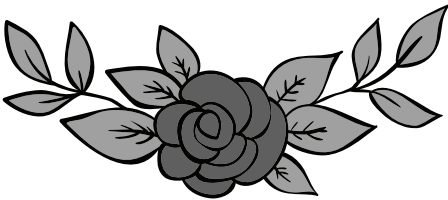


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Tim Casey

(Resident of Haliburton)

Peacefully at Haliburton Hospital on Tuesday evening, April 25, 2023, surrounded by his loving family in his 74th year. Beloved husband and best friend of Lornell Casey. Loving father of Pat (Angie), Joanna, Jason (Ashlee) and Pam. Fondly remembered by his grandchildren Regan (Christine), Parker (Emily), Reese (Amelia), Kiera (Brady), Devonte, Kemauhl, McKinnon (Nick), Hannah (Jackson) and by his great grandson Frankie. Dear brother of Dennis (Roxanne) and Nedeane (Dennis). Predeceased by his sister Joanne and his parents Earle & Jean Casey. Also lovingly remembered by his many nieces and nephews. Tim was a Big Brother to London Reynolds. Tim was a renowned educator in rock drilling and blasting and many other construction fields. He enjoyed reading, camping, fishing on the Great Bear Lake, and most of all spending time with his grandchildren. Birch Point Lodge on Lake Kashagawigamog was one of his most favourite places growing up.

Visitation & Funeral Service

Friends are invited to call at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209 on Sunday afternoon, April 30, 2023 from 1-4 p.m. A Funeral Service will be held on Monday morning, May 1, 2023 in the Chapel at 11 o'clock. (Visitation one hour prior). A Private Family Interment will take place later at Evergreen Cemetery. As an expression of sympathy, donations to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Peterborough or Haliburton Library would be appreciated by the family.

www.communityfuneralhomes.com



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Celebration of Life for Charlotte Pellerin

Saturday JUNE 3, 2023 11 am - 3 pm at
15 Austin Drive, Kinmount

*Charlotte passed on March 24, 2023
after her latest bout of Cancer.
She was in her year 73.*

*Those who knew Charlotte remember her
smile and positive outlook on life. Please
come if you knew Charlotte, to honor
her memory and share with others your
memories and stories that you may have.
Charlotte has been cremated.*

Lunch and refreshments will be
provided - please call her husband
Ron to confirm your attendance
at 705-307-0384



In Loving Memory of (Richard) Ben King

*Who passed away suddenly as the result of a motor vehicle
accident on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at the age of 47.*

Ben, beloved son of Cathy and Murray and dear brother to Terry, his wife Jen and niece Emma. Beloved father to the love of his life Laine and; friend of Laine's mother Tammy and her family. Loving "Step daddio" to Mellissa and Ashley, friend to their mother Tracy and Puterbaugh family, grampa to Logan and Bella. There was a special bond Ben and his brother Terry had with their cousins Mandy, Jason, Mitchell and Adam. Dearly missed by Aunt/Uncles Pat and Fred, Susan and Brent, Sandra, John, Wendy and Roy, and Great Aunt Barbara and Klich family. Predeceased by his four grandparents whom Ben is now reunited with in heaven. Ben especially loved his Grandpa Joes to whom he shared a special bond and who in Ben's words was his best friend and idol. Whether sitting by campfire, watching a movie, playing darts, sharing laughs or just chatting on the phone. Ben cherished time spent with many friends and will be dearly missed by special friends Benji and Crego family, Clinton, Liza, Sherry B, Scott and John. At a very early age Ben had a passion for finding out how things worked and his dream of becoming a great auto mechanic was meant to be. He had a kind heart, always willing to lend a helping hand to family, friends and neighbours.

A cremation has taken place and a private family interment will be held at Kinmount Cemetery. Friends are invited to join family for a celebration of Ben's Life on Saturday, May 13th from 1 to 4pm at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 441, 11 County Road 503, Kinmount for refreshments and sharing stories, with words from family and close friends at 2:30 p.m.

Ben's love for his son Laine was great it would be his wish to make sure Laine was looked after. A trust fund is being set up for donations to the Laine King Trust Fund (cheques and cash only) would be greatly appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



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Announcement
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Technibus

The CNIB's travelling road-show, Technibus, gave area residents a chance to understand the problems blind people face.
Page 5

Inside

Home show

An eight page pull-out section marking the Home and Cottage Show taking place this weekend at the Arena begins after...
Page 16

Preserve Wildlife Party at
 The World Famous
ROCKCLIFFE
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Main Street

The Times

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61¢ plus 4¢ GST

Number 1573

Minden

April 19, 1993

Tax coalition forces trustees to review budget

by Andy Holloway

Haliburton's taxpayer's coalition has succeeded in forcing the board of education to take another look at its budget.

Trustees at the management committee meeting last Tuesday were all set to recommend the acceptance of the proposed budget, but reconsidered when faced with about 30 angry taxpayers led by coalition president Bill Payne and spokesman Archie Dobbins.

Instead, the committee will take another look at its budget on Tuesday and try to cut down what would have been a 5.3 per cent increase or about \$40 extra on an average Dysart property tax bill.

However, those expecting a large decrease in the board's budget will probably be disappointed. Committee members all said they still do not want cuts to affect programs.

Business administrator Jim Bradley said the two areas where cuts could generate significant savings are teachers or busing.

The board could see some savings by making children walk up to one mile to more common pick-up points. Muskoka's board recently adopted such a policy, but is enforcing it only where the speed limit is 60 kilometers per hour or less. In Haliburton, there are few areas where the speed limit is that low. Therefore, children would have to walk along the side of busy roads and highways.

Aside from busing, the only area left to cut is the teaching staff -- which, if last Tuesday's crowd is any indication, would make taxpayers very happy.

Archie Dobbins who presented the coalition's speech said the board can not pass the budget as it stands because taxpayers have nothing left to give.

"If you pass this budget you are insulting my intelligence. And I'll tell you now that you won't get away with it," said Dobbins.

Dobbins said teachers should be forced to accept an immediate 10 per cent pay cut. Other businesses in Ontario are realigning their salary structures and it's time education boards did the same, said Dobbins.

"To coin a phrase, the cut would be about three or four cases of beer. The only difference is we're asking the people who can afford it," said Dobbins. If the teachers went on strike and parents complained then the board could blame the coalition, said Dobbins.

However, the board did ask teachers if they would be willing to renegotiate the final year of their two-year contract to fit more in with the restraint of the times, but they refused and the board let it go.

(more on page 2)



Hot air high jinks

Students at Archie Stouffer Elementary School's annex take shelter beneath the enormous billowing kite during

their phys-ed class last week. The warm sun and absence of wind were ideal for playing games in the school lot.

Tomorrow is decision day

The health care planning committee will be meeting tomorrow to determine the location of the 30 proposed long term care beds for the county.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Fatima Church hall in Minden.

Committee members are expected to vote on which location is best suited for a 30-bed expansion -- adjacent to Haliburton Hospital or as an addition to Highland Crest Home for the aged in Minden.

Times takes four awards in provincial competition

Area papers did very well in this year's annual Ontario Community Newspaper Awards competition.

The Times had finishers in the top three of several categories. Two reporters from The Times earned honours. Andy Holloway's two part series 'Down in the dumps' was voted the second best environmental story of the year while Susan Grober earned a third-place finish for her sports and recreation story, 'A fish tale'.

The Times' editorial cartoonist Gil Parcell finished second for his piece

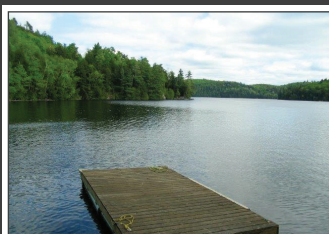
'Admiral Restraint'.

The Times also fared well in its circulation class (level 3) finishing fourth overall. In addition, the editorial pages were considered the best of all 10 entrants while its news and feature stories were considered second best.

The Haliburton County Echo finished first in its class (level 4) and took firsts in the Citizenship and Multiculturalism and Finance categories. The paper's 'Fall Tour' supplement finished second in the special section category.

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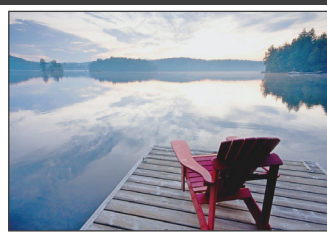




Jim Alder*
705-935-1112

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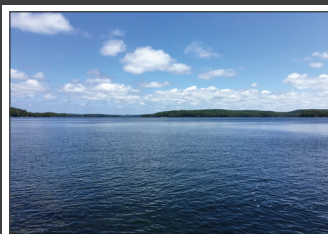
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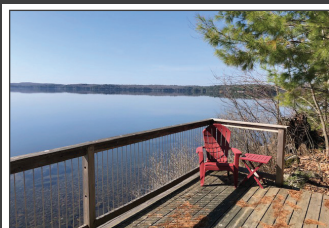
- 196ft Frontage, 2.3 Acres, Well Treed, Sunrises
- Deep Water Entry, Clean Clear Pristine Waters
- Excellent Fishing & Boating on 2 Lk Chain
- Area of Haliburton Forest & Sir Sam's Ski Hill



Mark Dennys*
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Haliburton Condominium \$669,000

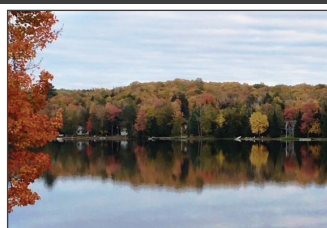
- 1236 Sq Ft, 3rd Flr, 2 Bdrm, 2 Bath, A/C
- Large Balcony w/ Entertainment Space/Views
- Head Lake (5 Lake Chain), Move-in Ready
- Underground Parking, Close to Walking Trails



Tom Ecclestone*
286-2138 x 226

New Listing on Boshkung Lake

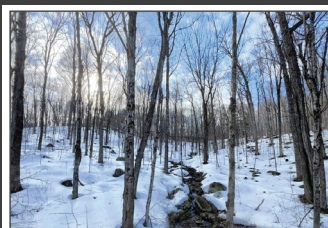
- 180+ ft of big lake views with southwest exposure
- Ideal building lot with direct access off highway 35
- Miles of boating, great fishing, outstanding restaurants



Lindsay Elder**
457-5878

Listings Wanted!

- If you're thinking of selling...CALL ME!
- Strike while the market is hot!



Melanie Hevesi*
854-1000

Johnson Bay Rd

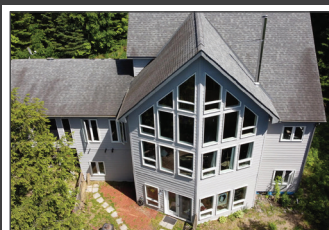
- 109 acres of unspoiled Haliburton landscape
- Overlooks Percy Lake, 4100ft of Municipal Road Frtg
- Approximately 30 minutes to Haliburton



Andrew Hodgson**
286-2138 x 229

Beech Lake

- Open concept 3-season cottage, 4 bedrooms
- Oversized car-garage with & updated bunkie
- Clean, hard-packed sand beach & lake views
- Amazing afternoon sun & sunsets!



Susanne James* & Andy Mosher**
457-2128 x 133

Miskwabi Lake \$1,499,900

- 4-Season custom Viceroy
- Over 2700 sq. ft on three levels
- Deep clean shoreline, western exposure
- Awesome 2-lake chain, Municipal road access



Ashley McKeigue
705-854-1833

Oblong Lake \$599,000

- 0.9-acre parcel with north-western exposure
- Over 700 feet of clean, sand & rock frontage
- Driveway installed & building site partially cleared
- Part of a 2-lake chain with premium Haliburton Lake



Brandon Nimigon***
457-2128 x 127

Paradise on Drag River!

- \$274,900, Very Private & Peaceful
- 1.05 Acre Lot Fronting on Desirable Drag River
- Campfire Area, Outhouse, Installed Driveway
- Year Round Private Road Property



Karen Nimigon**
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- Original Farmhouse on Lot
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Kelly Kay*
705-457-6841
Kirsten Rae*
705-854-1454

Sunnyside St \$849,000

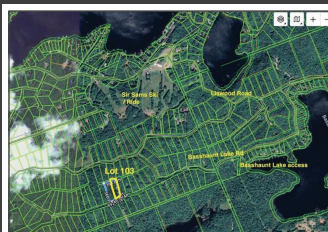
- New 1500+ sq ft 3 bed + 2 bath bungalow
- Double attached garage, full basement, Taron warranty
- Quiet neighbourhood close to Haliburton



Darlene Reil*
447-2055

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- This is the time to think about listing
- Listings Needed!
- Call today for more information



Christine Sharp*
705-489-9968

Private, Building Lot \$159,000

- 2 Acre Forested Lot
- Beautiful Mixture of Pine & Maple Trees
- Public Access to Basshaunt Lake Close By
- Few Mins From All Amenities of Eagle Lake



Greg Stamp*
457-2128 x 128

Large Acreage on Cockle Lake!

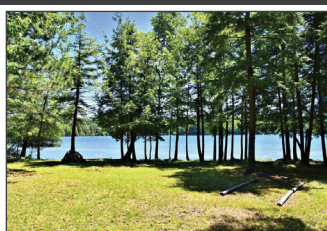
- 131 Acres, 3000+ ft of Water Frontage
- Hydro Available at the Lot Line
- Year-Round Township Maintained Road
- 20 Mins to Haliburton Village



Melanie Vigrass*
286-2138 x 232

Bethel Road \$549,000

- Incredible 194-acre parcel just mins from Minden
- Long gated driveway to private, cleared site
- Large frontage on picturesque Walker's Pond
- Trails throughout to explore, teaming with wildlife



Lindsay Wilkinson*
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